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Written on FEBRUARY 19, 2015 AT 9:07 AM by SVANDERWERFF

Navy Hospital Corpsmen: Ready To Respond, Anytime, Anywhere

Filed under CORPSMAN, FLEET AND THE FLEET MARINE FORCE, MILITARY MEDICINE (2 COMMENTS)

By Force Master Chief Sherman Boss

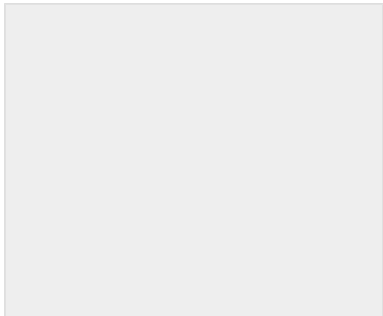


Hospital corpsmen are well trained and prepared to answer the call. A call they pray will not come, but when it does, rest assured they are selflessly ready to respond, anytime, anywhere.

Editors Note: Originally posted Feb. 18 - [Navy Live, the official blog of the United States Navy](#)

The history of the Hospital Corps is well documented by heroes like the corpsmen who fought at Iwo Jima, as well as the many Navy ships and buildings that bear their name.

Four hospital corpsmen received the Medal of Honor for their service and bravery during the Battle of Iwo Jima, where according to Fleet Admiral Nimitz, “uncommon valor was a common virtue.” Their names are Francis Pierce, Jack Williams, John Willis and George Wahlen. Seventy years later, the legacy of these brave corpsmen lives.



Navy Medicine Video

Navy Medicine is a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

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March 2015 (1)

February 2015 (16)

January 2015 (12)

December 2014 (17)



Francis Pierce

Their legacy is plastered on the walls of every Navy hospital and clinic, and their names are remembered by every corpsmen operating forward around the world today.

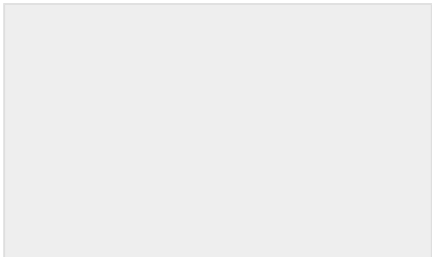
Anyone can learn their names or see their faces, but today’s corpsmen are the true reminder of that legacy. A legacy that starts with a call to serve, is honed through training, and a commitment to readiness, and, ultimately, bound by a solemn oath.



Jack Williams

Corpsmen are bound to their trade by an oath taken at graduation. They solemnly pledge themselves to faithfully practice their duties and hold the care of the sick and injured as a sacred trust. That is the basic principle of a hospital corpsman – it’s their foundation.

Today’s hospital corpsmen are vigilant and committed to one another, and to the values and principles that have defined their past and will forge the future.



November 2014 (11)

October 2014 (15)

September 2014 (20)

August 2014 (14)

July 2014 (13)

June 2014 (8)

May 2014 (11)

April 2014 (9)

March 2014 (14)

February 2014 (7)

January 2014 (7)

December 2013 (7)

November 2013 (12)

October 2013 (7)

September 2013 (14)

August 2013 (13)

July 2013 (11)

June 2013 (22)

May 2013 (15)

April 2013 (14)

March 2013 (14)

February 2013 (14)

January 2013 (12)

December 2012 (11)

November 2012 (11)

October 2012 (7)

September 2012 (9)

August 2012 (12)

July 2012 (13)

June 2012 (17)

May 2012 (22)

April 2012 (14)

March 2012 (13)



John Willis

February 2012 (14)

January 2012 (13)

December 2011 (13)

November 2011 (20)

October 2011 (22)

September 2011 (12)

August 2011 (16)

July 2011 (10)

Like other Navy Sailors, hospital corpsmen join the Navy to serve their country. But it's our hospital corpsmen that are trusted to care for the sons and daughters of the Navy and Marine Corps. They are devoted to ensuring Sailors and Marines are medically ready and able to perform their duties. They do this in hospitals, aid stations, clinics, ships, submarines and anywhere else the Navy and Marine Corps operates. This preparation ensures their own readiness when the call comes; the call of "Corpsman Up!!!"



George Wahlen

Hospital corpsmen have answered that call for more than 100 years in scores of places, some remembered but most forgotten. Places like the Argonne Forest, Iwo Jima, USS Midway, Inchon, Khe Sanh, Beirut, USS Cole or the unnamed highways and hills of Iraq and Afghanistan. The time or place is different, the result the same. Hospital corpsmen are well trained and prepared to answer the call. A call they pray will not come, but when it does, rest assured they are selflessly ready to respond, anytime, anywhere.

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Jim
Flight Medic E8 AF Retired – had occasion to work with 8406’s at Bien Hoa during the
72 Easter Offensive...great bunch of guys....

- svanderwerff
Jim, Thank you for your service and memory of 8406’s.